

Since 9/11, Republicans Have Repeatedly Voted Against Strengthening Border Security

*As Enforcement Shrinks, GOP Votes
Against Border Security*



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REPUBLICAN RECORD ON BORDER SECURITY

In recent months, the American public has been focusing on the lack of security we have on the nation's borders. Four and a half years after 9/11, it is clear that our borders remain alarmingly porous and that much needs to be done to truly make our borders secure.

The fact that our border is porous is not the fault of our hard-working Border Patrol agents and Customs and Immigration agents, who are doing the best they can with the staffing levels and resources that they have been provided. Rather, it is the result of the neglect and underfunding of border security over the last four and a half years by the Bush Administration and Congressional Republicans - who have failed to provide our border security agencies the resources and personnel they need to succeed in their mission.

Indeed, under this Administration and this Republican-led Congress, from 9/11 through April 2006, only 1,641 new Border Patrol agents had been hired - which is less than a 17 percent increase in four and a half years.

Furthermore, border enforcement and immigration enforcement have fallen drastically under the Bush Administration. For example, between 1999 and 2004, worksite immigration enforcement operations against companies were scaled back 99 percent by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which subsequently was merged into the Department of Homeland Security. In 1999, the United States initiated fines against 417 companies. In 2004, it issued fine notices to only three.

Suddenly, after years of neglect, Congressional Republicans and President Bush are giving speech and speech about the importance of border security - but the question remains: *where have the Republicans been for the past four and a half years?*

Typical of what Republicans are now saying about border security is the following: 'The most important priority for the American people is securing our borders,' which Majority Leader Boehner stated on May 15. Unfortunately, the Republican rhetoric doesn't match the Republican record of neglect and underfunding.

Over the past four and a half years, Democrats have been attempting to highlight the serious security gaps that exist along both our southern and northern borders - and have been attempting to get the GOP-controlled Congress to focus on targeting resources on unfilled gaps.

But, as this report shows, the Republican record is a record of voting time after time against efforts to enhance border security and provide our borders the agents, equipment, and state-of-the-art technology that our borders so desperately need.

Seven times over the last four and a half years, Democrats have offered amendments to enhance border security resources. If these Democratic amendments had been adopted, there would be 6,600 more Border Patrol agents, 14,000 more detention beds, and 2,700 more immigration agents along our borders than now exist. Each time, these efforts have been rejected by the Republican Majority.

Following is an overview of some of the key votes on border security since 9/11.

2001 Vote #454 - November 28, 2001 - H.R. 3338, FY 2002 Defense Appropriations/ Emergency Supplemental

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment that would have added \$223 million for border security - to help meet the promises in the 2001 PATRIOT Act on border staffing and to build needed border facilities. After 9/11, experts recognized that the porousness of the northern border represented a major security threat to the United States. And everyone remembered the attempt by an Islamic extremist to get a large amount of explosives across the Canadian border in December 1999 to blow up the Los Angeles Airport in the Millennium bombing plot.



Recognizing these concerns, Congress included a provision in the PATRIOT Act mandating the tripling of the number of border agents and inspectors along the northern border. This amendment included \$145 million to make a down payment on the promise of Congress in the PATRIOT Act to triple northern border personnel, which the bill failed to do, and to purchase surveillance equipment. The amendment also included \$78 million for the highest priority facility needs of the Border Patrol and other parts of the INS - particularly the Border Patrol's detention facility needs.

2003 Vote #301 - June 24, 2003 - H.R. 2555, FY 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment that would have added \$300 million for border security, including making a further downpayment on the promise of Congress in the 2001 PATRIOT Act to triple the number of border agents and inspectors along the northern border. The amendment was critically needed because the level of northern border personnel funded in the Republican bill was about 30 percent below the commitment made in the PATRIOT Act.

2003 Vote #305 - June 24, 2003 - H.R. 2555, FY 2004 Homeland Security Appropriations

This vote was regarding the same amendment as 2003 Vote #301 above. On a vote on appealing the ruling of the chair, Republicans once again voted AGAINST consideration of this amendment that would have added \$300 million for enhancing border security, including adding border agents and inspectors along the northern border.

2004 Vote #243 - June 16, 2004 - H.R. 4567, FY 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations



Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment that would have added \$750 million for border security -- to help meet the promises in the PATRIOT Act on border staffing, better monitor our borders, and deploy radiation portal monitors. Under the GOP bill, the level of northern border personnel funded was still about 30 percent below the commitment made in the PATRIOT Act - so the amendment was designed to help Congress keep its promise. The \$750 million would also have been used for giving border patrol more of the equipment they critically needed - including air stations for air patrols, radiation portal monitors, and state-of-the-art surveillance equipment.

2005 Vote #160 - May 5, 2005 - H.R. 1268, FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Conference Report

Republicans voted AGAINST a motion to send the report back to conference with instructions to add \$284 million for border security measures - that would bring funding for border security in the conference report up to the level in the Senate-passed bill. The \$284 million included the funding for 550 additional Border Patrol agents and 200 additional immigration agents that was included in the Senate bill. It also included the funding in the Senate bill for unmanned border aerial vehicles, which have been used successfully in Arizona to assist in surveillance.

For FY 2006 and FY 2007, Republicans Have Repeatedly Broken the Promises They Made on Border Security in the Intelligence Reform (9/11) Act of 2004



In December 2004, the Congress enacted the Intelligence Reform (or 9/11) Act (PL 108-458). One of the key commitments Congress made in that Act was to beef up border security measures. This included the specific promise of providing 2,000 additional Border Patrol agents, 800 additional immigration agents, and 8,000 additional detention beds per year from FY 2006 through FY 2010. And yet, both for FY 2006 and FY 2007, the Republican Congress has repeatedly voted against efforts to meet this mandate, as seen below.

2005 Vote #174 - May 17, 2005 - H.R. 2360, FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment that would have added \$400 million for border security, to meet the promises Congress made on additional Border Patrol agents, immigration agents, and detention beds in the 9/11 Act. First, the President's budget for 2006 broke the promise of the 9/11 Act by providing funding for only 210 new Border Patrol agents in 2006 - 1,790 below the number promised. The Republican appropriations bill was better than the President's budget, funding 1,000 new agents - but this was still 1,000 agents short of the promise made in the 9/11 Act. The Republican bill also broke the promises on immigration agents and detention beds. This amendment was designed to live up to the commitments of the 9/11 Act. It added funding for Border Patrol agents, and also added funding for 600 additional immigration agents to get to the 800 promised and added funding for 4,000 additional detention beds to get to the 8,000 promised.

2005 Vote #187 - May 18, 2005 - H.R. 1817, FY 2006 Homeland Security Authorization

Republicans voted AGAINST a Democratic substitute to the Homeland Security Authorization bill that was designed to fulfill the promises in the 9/11 Act. For example, the Democratic substitute included a full authorization for funding a total of 800 additional immigration agents for 2006 promised in the 9/11 Act and a full authorization for funding a total of 8,000 additional detention beds for 2006 promised in the 9/11 Act.

2005 Vote #188 - May 18, 2005 - H.R. 1817, FY 2006 Homeland Security Authorization



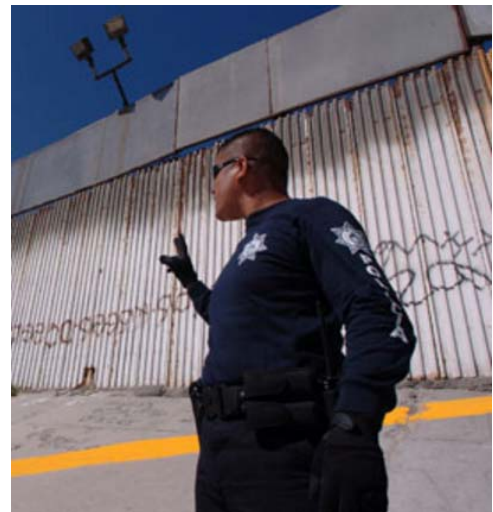
Similarly, Republicans voted AGAINST a motion to recommit the Homeland Security Authorization bill with instructions to report it back immediately with instructions to add 15 mandates from the Intelligence Reform (or 9/11) Act that had not been included in the Republican bill, including full authorization for funding a total of 800 additional immigration agents for 2006 and full authorization for funding a total of 8,000 additional detention beds for 2006.

2006 Vote #56 - March 16, 2006 - H.R. 4939, FY 2006 Supplemental Appropriations

Republicans defeated an amendment to H.R. 4939, FY 2006 Supplemental Appropriations, offered by Rep. Martin Sabo (D-MN), which would have added \$600 million for border security measures to the bill. The \$600 million included \$400 million for installation of 1,500 radiation portal monitors at locations along the border and \$200 million for additional air patrols and other aviation assets at our land borders.

2006 Vote #210 - May 25, 2006 - H.R. 5441, FY 2007 Homeland Security Appropriations

Republicans voted AGAINST consideration of an amendment that would have added \$2.1 billion for border security, including \$1.5 billion to meet the promises Congress made on additional Border Patrol agents, immigration agents, and detention beds in the 9/11 Act. The Republican Congress has failed to meet these mandates for both 2006 and 2007. This amendment provided enough funding to address the cumulative shortfalls that have resulted from underfunding in both 2006 and 2007. For example, on Border Patrol agents, the Republican Congress had funded only 1,000 additional agents for 2006 and was funding only 1,200 additional agents for 2007 - leaving the Congress 1,800 agents short of what it had promised in the 9/11 Act. Hence, the amendment provided funding for these 1,800 additional agents. Similarly, the amendment also funded the nearly 500 additional immigration agents and 9,000 additional detention beds beyond those in the bill that were promised by the 9/11 Act. The amendment also included \$610 million to further increase border detection capabilities, including funding more radiation portal monitors along the borders and providing additional air patrols along the borders.



CONCLUSION

As the above documents, over the last four and a half years, the record of Republicans has been voting time after time against measures to strengthen our border security.

Suddenly, in recent days, Republicans have finally appeared to acknowledge that they have been underfunding border security for all these years and the President has sought supplemental funds for border security. On May 18, as part of his comprehensive immigration reform proposal, President Bush sent to Congress a request for \$1.9 billion in supplemental FY 2006 funding for border security - including adopting the Democratic proposals that 1,000 additional Border Patrol agents and 4,000 additional detention beds should be funded in 2006. Even though they were already meeting when the request arrived, the conferees on H.R. 4399, the FY 2006 Iraq/Katrina Supplemental, incorporated the President's last-minute request into the conference report - which was adopted by the House on June 13.



Despite this last-minute increase of 1,000 Border Patrol agents for 2006, which Democrats strongly support, Republicans still remain 800 agents short of the agents promised by the 9/11 Act for the 2006-2007 time period. Similarly, despite the last-minute increase of 4,000 detention beds, Republicans still remain 5,000 beds short of the beds promised by the 9/11 Act. In addition, the President failed to seek funding to address the serious shortfall in immigration agents.



Democrats will continue to fight to ensure that the commitments of the 9/11 Act are lived up to by Congress. Many critical, urgent border security needs remain unmet.